

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 15427 111427Z

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ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-04 NSC-05 RSC-01

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 FRB-01

COME-00 SCI-02 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 DRC-01 /081 W

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R 111338Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3340

UNCLAS MOSCOW 15427

DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR UR US

SUBJ: US-USSR AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE: REPORT ON
LATER SESSIONS OF THIRD MEETING OF JOINT WORKING GROUP ON
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND INFORMATION, MOSCOW,
OCTOBER 8-11, 1974

REF: MOSCOW 15224

1. SUMMARY: WORKING GROUP DISCUSSIONS PROCEEDED IN
HARMONIOUS FASHION BUT REVEALED SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN US AND SOVIET SIDES WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE
RESOLVED AT JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING. ALTHOUGH PROGRESS
MADE TOWARD IMPLEMENTATION OF SOME PREVIOUSLY AGREED
ACTIVITIES AND SEVERAL NEW ACTIVITIES WERE DEVELOPED,
SOVIET SIDE MADE CLEAR THEIR UNWILLINGNESS PROVIDE US
WITH FORWARD ESTIMATES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND
FOREIGN TRADE, AND INDICATED PREFERENCE FOR ONLY ONE
WG MEETING IN 1975. DIFFERENCES ALSO REMAIN CONCERNING
PROPOSED US EXHIBITION IN MOSCOW AND PROPOSED SEMINARS
ON LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION. END SUMMARY

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 15427 111427Z

2. SEPARATE DISCUSSIONS OF INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS

OCTOBER 8-9 REVEALED NUMBER OF BASIC DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN SOVIET AND AMERICAN INTERESTS.

(A) ECONOMIC INFORMATION PROJECT. (1) SOVIET SIDE REMAINS
UNWILLING TO FURNISH AMERICAN SIDE FORWARD ESTIMATES
OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND TRADE. WHE REMINDED
INFORMALLY DURING CORRIDOR CONVERSATION THAT AGREEMENT
ITSELF CALLS FOR EXCHANGE THESE DATA, ONE SOVIET
DELEGATE RESPONDED THAT SUCH WAS THEIR POSITION WHEN
AGREEMENT SIGNED BUT NOT NECESSARILY NOW. AMERICAN
SIDE EMPHASIZED PRIORITY IT PLACES ON EXCHANGE OF
FORWARD ESTIMATES SEVERAL TIMES DURING MEETING.

(2) SOME PROGRESS MADE ON AGREEING TO SCHEDULES FOR
EXCHANGING OTHER ECONOMIC INFORMATION AND DATA.
SOVIET SIDE SUGGESTED NEW EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON
METHODOLOGY OF CALCULATING US AGRICULTURAL INDEXES
AND DEVELOPMENT OF GLOSSARY OF TECHNICAL TERMS USED
IN AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS. AMERICAN SIDE AGREED TO
CONSIDER SOVIET PROPOSALS AND INDICATED WILLINGNESS
BE RESPONSIVE.

(B) AGRIBUSINESS PROJECT. (1) PROGRESS WAS MADE
TOWARD IMPLEMENTATION OF SOME PREVIOUSLY AGREED AC-
TIVITIES AND SEVERAL NEW ACTIVITIES WERE DEVELOPED.
(2) NO REAL PROGRESS MADE TOWARD CONCURRENCE ON THEME
OF PROPOSED US EXHIBITION IN MOSCOW. SOVIET SIDE
INTERESTED ONLY IF THEME IS TECHNOLOGY OF AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTION AND INCLUDING PROCESSING MACHINER.
AMERICAN SIDE EXPLAINED THIS WOULD FALL UNDER AUSPICES
OF US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE. SOVIET SIDE SUGGESTED
AMERICAN SIDE SUBMIT CONCRETE PROPOSAL TO USSR
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND US SIDE AGREED TO DISCUSS WITH
USDOC.

(3) SOVIET SIDE NOTED THAT RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY
WORKING GROUP HAS SCHEDULED SYMPOSIUM IN USSR ON MILK,
BEEF AND PORK PRODUCTION DURING 1975 AND REQUESTED US
SIDE TO PROVIDE EXPERTS ON ECONOMIC AND MANAGEMENT
ASPECTS UNDER ECONOMIC WORKING GROUP. AMERICAN SIDE
RESPONDED BY RESTATING WILLINGNESS HOST SYMPOSIUM ON
ECONOMIC AND MANAGEMENT ASPECTS IN US BUT UNABLE AGREE
AT THIS TIME TO SOVIET REQUEST NOT PREVIOUSLY STATED
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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 15427 111427Z

FOR COMBINED SYMPOSIUM.

(C) FORECASTING PROJECT. (1) SOVIET SIDE URGED
EXCLUSIIN OF DEMAND FORECASTING FROM PROJECT. AMERICAN
SIDE POINTED OUT THAT MAJOR EMPAHSIS OF ACTIVITIES
FOCUSED ON PRODUCTION FORECASTING BUT REFUSED TO
ELIMINATE DEMAND FORECASTING, SPECIFICALLY COVERED
IN AGREEMENT, FROM PROJECT.

(2) GOOD DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE RE USSR WORK ON HYDRO-

METEOROLOGICAL PROJECTIONS FOR AGRICULTURE.

(D) LIBRARY EXCHANGE PROJECT. (1) TWO SIDES AGREED UPON A FOURTH PROJECT FOR THE FURTHER EXCHANGE OF PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE IN BOTH COUNTRIES FROM AGRICULTURAL LIBRARIES AND OTHER AGENCIES. LIBRARY SPECIALISTS FROM EACH COUNTRY WILL VISIT THE OTHER DURING 1975 TO WORK OUT PROCEDURES FOR IMPLEMENTING THIS PROJECT.

3. POINTS RAISED DURING FULL WORKING GROUP SESSION AFTERNOON OCTOBER 9 NOT RELATED TO SPECIFIC PROJECTS INCLUDE FOLLOWING:

(A) GENERAL AGREEMENT REACHED ON SUBJECT, MONTH, DURATION AND NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FOR ALL TEAMS FROM BOTH SIDES THROUGH 1975.

(B) TWO SIDES ALSO AGREED ON SCHEDULE FOR ADVANCE APPROVAL OF SPECIFIC DATES, ITINERARIES, NECESSARY VISAS, ETC., FOR ALL TEAMS.

(C) SOVIET SIDE PROPOSED HOLDING ONLY ONE MEETING OF ECONOMIC WORKING GROUP IN 1975, AND SUGGESTED AUGUST. AMERICAN AIDE POINTED OUT THAT ONLY JOINT COMMITTEE CAN CHANGE REQUIREMENT OF AGREEMENT FOR AT LEAST TWO WORKING GROUP MEETINGS EACH YEAR.

(D) AMERICAN SIDE PROPOSED THAT FUTURE WG MEETINGS BE SCHEDULED FOR FIVE DAYS, WITH FOURTH DAY COMPLETELY FREE TO ALLOW FOR JOINT PREPARATION AND REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS. (LACK OF SUCH TIME WAS MAJOR ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEM OF THIRD MEETING.) SOVIET SIDE TENTATIVELY INDICATED AGREEMENT.

(E) THROUGHOUT MEETING, SOVIET SIDE CONTINUALLY PRESSED TO SHIFT EMPHASIS IN WORK OF WG FROM ECONOMIC INFORMATION OF PRIMARY INTEREST TO US TO SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL SUBJECTS OBVIOUSLY MAIN INTERESTS OF USSR.

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PAGE 04 MOSCOW 15427 111427Z

US DELEGATION BELIEVES CLOSE COORDINATION NECESSARY BETWEEN WORK CARRIED OUT UNDER BOTH WORKING GROUPS TO ACHIEVE REASONABLE BALANCE BETWEEN DIVERSE INTERESTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES ACROSS AGREEMENT.

4. MEETING ADJOURNED WITH SIGNATURE BY CHAIRMEN OF BOTH SIDES OF MINUTES OF THIRD MEETING (INCLUDING APPENDIXES COVERING PROJECTS, TEAM TRAVEL, ETC., IN DETAIL) AND REPORT TO JOINT COMMITTEE COVERING ACTIVITIES TO DATE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RESEARCH, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, DATA, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, EXPORT CONTROLS, TRADE AGREEMENTS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MOSCOW15427
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740290-0642
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741052/aaaabsoo.tel
Line Count: 164
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AGR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MOSCOW 15224
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAR 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <10 FEB 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-USSR AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE: REPORT ON LATER SESSIONS OF THIRD MEETING OF JOINT WORKING GROUP ON
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EPAP, UR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005